

# MACON COUNTY

**Honorable Aubrey Ford, Jr.**

Macon County Courthouse  
P.O. Box 830703  
Tuskegee, AL 36083  
(334) 727-6110

John Pulliam  
Willie C. Thomas  
Lula Bridges  
Melvin Clark  
Kate LaFayette  
Kajuandra Harris

James Martin  
Harvey Maxwell  
Paula Crawford  
Jennifer Wells  
Don Schofield  
MaePearl Clark

Kenneth Gibbs  
Jesse Upshaw  
David Warren  
Febreu Holston  
William Carsen  
Robert Johnson



## Council Priorities

### **1. Reinstatement of the Early Warning Truancy Prevention Program.**

*Keeping children in school will help to prevent juvenile crime committed during school hours.*

### **2. Development of school based health clinics.**

*School based health clinics would provide health screening for students who depend on emergency rooms for basic medical services.*

### **3. Quality early care and education opportunities throughout the county.**

*Education is the key to the advancement of our community and we must encourage their love of learning for their future advancement.*

# Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county

## Early Care Education

Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

### Quality day care and education throughout the county with an emphasis on literacy

#### Action Steps

- 1) Identify resources for ages 0-5 that will promote quality early learning experiences.

### Information distribution

#### Action Steps

- 1) Promote community and family awareness about the importance of quality child care and literacy.
- 2) Support efforts for better trained and better paid childcare workforce.
- 3) Identify and address barriers to family accessibility to early learning opportunities.

## Economic Security

Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

### Create employment opportunities that will allow families to live above property level

#### Action Steps

- 1) Encourage the business community to create or expand employment opportunities.

### Encourage governmental cooperation to fulfill the action steps

#### Action Steps

- 1) Improve adult education opportunities.
- 2) Encourage participation in job training.
- 3) Encourage the development of an inter-city transportation system.

## Education

Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

### Truancy prevention

#### Action Steps

- 1) Encourage the Board of Education to hire and maintain sufficient staff to address this issue.

## **Character education**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Develop and prevent parenting programs.
- 2) Encourage the school to cooperate with Head Start.
- 3) Develop and present life skills programs for youth.

## **Education and career development programs for youth**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Develop a mentoring program with area professionals and employers to present youth vocational options.
- 2) facilitate a county-wide tutorial program.
- 3) Develop and present programs that will encourage youth to read good literature develop writing skills.

## **Health**

Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

## **Access to medical and dental care**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Health and dental fairs with youth as target audience.

## **Births to unwed mothers**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Sex education for youth as a part of the school curriculum.
- 2) Social workers and health clinics in schools.
- 3) Public service campaign using local media outlets.

## **Prenatal care and low birth weight babies**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Parenting education.
- 2) Distribution of health information to expectant mothers.
- 3) Identify and partner with available community resources.

## **Parent Involvement Skills**

Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

## **Create a Family Service Center to coordinate all social services and resources**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Determine what services are available in the region.

## **Increase parental awareness about the importance of parental involvement in the education process**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Create resource brochures for parents of children 0 to 5 years old.
- 2) Create a distribution network for these brochures.
- 3) Transportation issues in rural communities.

## **Safety**

Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

## **Juvenile violent crime and gang activity**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Education activities for parents and children.

## **Drugs**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Develop drug education programs for children.
- 2) Use of mentoring programs to address substance abuse and child abuse and neglect issues.

## **Child abuse and neglect**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Better economic opportunities for parents.
- 2) Parenting skills programs to address the specific needs of parents and the family.
- 3) Affordable quality day care.
- 4) Drug rehabilitation programs for addicted parents.

## **Policy Recommendations**

- Create school based health clinics.
- Create a Family Service Center to provide "one stop shop services."
- Develop and improve participation in after school, evening and weekend programs for life skills for youth.
- Develop and improve transportation networks both intra and inter county.
- Improve alternative school program: In school suspension, high school on line, vocational education, flex scheduling.
- Reinstate the Early Warning Truancy Prevention Program.
- Coordinate a community wide initiative to expand early care and education opportunities.
- Increase accessibility of high quality child care